1.   (Amended)   A computerized software installation and installation validation system comprising:

a database engine module for maintaining a first database, said first database having a first custom action table, said first custom action table having a plurality of action columns for specifying data corresponding to aspects of an installation action that may be taken as part of a standardized data-driven installation and at least one action row for representing an individual installation action taken as part of a standardized data-driven software installation; and

an installation engine module operative to read an action value from at least one action column of the action row and causing an action specified by the action value to be performed by a computer as part of a standardized data-driven software installation.

Please cancel Claims 7 and 8.

9.   .,   (Twice Amended)   A method for an installation program to install software comprising:

identifying an individual action stored within a database, the database having a first custom action table, said first custom action table having a plurality of action columns for specifying data corresponding to aspects of an installation action that may be taken as part of a standardized data-driven installation and at least one action row for representing an individual installation action taken as part of a standardized data-driven software installation;

reading the individual action from the database;

identifying a type for the individual action;

executing the individual action in a manner based upon the type for the individual action; and

communicating the results of the execution of the individual action to the installation program.

10.   (Amended)   The method of claim 9, wherein the type of the individual action specifies a dynamically loadable library and wherein executing the individual action includes loading a module from the dynamically loadable library.

11.   (Amended)   The method of claim 9, wherein the type of the individual action specifies an executable program and wherein executing the individual action includes loading the program and causing the executable program to execute.

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15. (Amended) A computer comprising:

a processor;

a computer-readable medium;

a database engine module for maintaining a first database, said first database having a first custom action table, said first custom action table having a plurality of action columns for specifying data corresponding to aspects of an installation action that may be taken as part of a standardized data-driven installation and at least one action row for representing an individual installation action taken as part of a standardized data-driven software installation; and

an installation engine module operative to read an action value from at least one action column of the action row and to cause an action specified by the action value to be performed by a computer as part of a standardized data-driven software installation.

20. (Twice Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps comprising;

identifying an individual action stored within a database, the database having a first custom action table, said first custom action table having a plurality of action columns for specifying data corresponding to aspects of an installation action that may be taken as part of a standardized data-driven installation and at least one action row for representing an individual installation action taken as part of a standardized data-driven software installation;

reading the individual action from the database;

identifying a type for the individual action;

executing the individual action in a manner based upon the type for the individual action; and

communicating the results of the execution of the individual action to the installation program.

21. (Amended) The medium of claim 20, wherein the type of the individual action specifies a dynamically loadable library and wherein executing the individual action includes loading a module from the dynamically loadable library.

Please add the following new Claims 27-31:

27. (New) A computerized software installation and validation system, comprising:

a database engine for maintaining a database comprising a custom action table having a plurality of action columns and an action row; and

an installation engine module operative to read an action value from one of said action columns and the action row and to cause a custom action specified by the action value for validating a portion of a software installation to be performed by a computer.

28.   (New)   The system of Claim 1, wherein the action columns include a column containing data specifying a name of an action.

29.   (New)   The system of Claim 1, wherein the action columns include a column containing data specifying a source for an action.

30.   (New)   The system of Claim 1, wherein the action columns include a column containing data specifying a target for an action.

31.   (New)   The system of Claim 1, wherein the action columns include a column containing data specifying a type of an action.